Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /117 W ------ 119839

R 161948Z JAN 74 FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1957

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJ: MNR ELECTS TO STAY IN GOVERNMENT

- 1. A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MNR CALLED BY THE SUPPORTERS
 OF CIRO HUMBOLDT AND THE OTERO CALDERON CELL WAS HELD ON
 JANUARY 14 AND 15 AND VOTED TO CONTINUE THE PARTICIPATION OF
 THE MNR IN THE GOVERNMENT, ENDORSED HUMBOLDT BY ACCLAMATION AS
 PARTY LEADER UNTIL ELECTIONS ARE HELD AT THE NEXT PARTY CONVENTION,
 LEFT THE DATE OF THE NEXT CONVENTION TO BE DETERMINED BY HUMBOLDT
 AND THE PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. SPEECHES MADE
 DURING THE MEETING CRITICIZED VICTOR PAZ E. AND HIS CRONIE AND
 PLEDGED SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT BANZER.
- 2. LOSS OF CLOUT WITH ORGANIZED LABOR SUFFERED BY MNR GROUP REMAINING IN THE GOVERNMENT IS REFLECTED IN FACT THAT SANJINES OVANDO (A PAZ ESTENSORRISTA), HEAD OF THE RAILROAD CONFEDERATION, WAS REPLACED AS HEAD OF MNR LABOR SECTOR BY A TRIUMVIRATE COMPOSED OF ONE MEDIUM-LEVEL LABOR LEADER FROM THE MINING SECTOR, AND TWO NOBODIES FROM FACTORY WORKERS AND DRIVERS UNIONS WHO HAD LOST THEIR POSITIONS IN THEIR OWN UNION ELECTIONS LAST YEAR.
- 3. COMMENT: WE CAN EXPECT SOME INTERNAL SQUABBLES IN THE MNR BETWEEN THOSE WHO SUPPORT HUMBOLDT AND THOSE WHO WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREFER ANOTHER LEADER SUCH AS AMBASSADOR LEMA PELAEZ, WHO WAS

THE RESIDENT HEAD OF THE MNR IN THE PERIOD WHEN DR. PAZ WAS IN EXILE IN LIMA (1964-71). THE RESULTS OF THE IN-FIGHTING, HOWEVER, ARE NOT LIKELY TO AFFECT THE DECISION TO REMAIN IN THE GOVERNMENT.

4. MORE DETAILED COMMENT ON RAMIFICATIONS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN MNR WILL FOLLOW NEXT WEEK. STEDMAN

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